

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Schimpe (U.S. Patent No. 5,184,247). Applicant amends claim 1 in order to obviate the § 112, second paragraph, rejection. Also, Applicant submits the following arguments to traverse the prior art rejections.

Claim 1 is patentable because Schimpe fails to teach each and every element of the claim.

Claim 1 recites, in a combination with other features, a wavelength-tunable laser comprising:

a first resonant cavity . . . ,

a pair of opposed reflector members . . . ,

a second resonant cavity; and

a reflector external to said first resonant cavity delimiting the second resonant cavity thereinbetween

Applicant submits that Schimpe fails to teach the claimed second resonant cavity in combination with other elements of the claim. Although the Examiner points out fiber guide or conductor 10 (col. 4, lines 14-15) as teaching the claimed second resonant cavity, there is absolutely no mention of the fiber guide or conductor 10 as forming a resonant cavity in the reference. In fact, FIG. 1 only shows a cutoff section of the fiber guide or conductor 10 and do not show the boundaries of a resonant cavity.

Further, Applicant submits that Schimpe fails to teach a reflector external to the first resonant cavity *delimiting* the second resonant cavity thereinbetween. To the contrary, the filter F and lens 9 cited by the Examiner as teaching the reflector external to the first resonant cavity

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do not delimit a resonant cavity at all. In contrast, the “filter F [is] arranged between the lenses 9 *for coupling the radiation out of the semiconductor laser 2 perpendicularly out of the beam path and allows the in-coupled radiation 11 to pass.*” (col. 4, lines 15-19). After the laser emission 12 is reflected off the filter F, Schimpe does not teach the laser emission 12 as entering a resonant cavity, unlike claim 1.

Not only does Schimpe fail to teach the reflector external to the first resonant cavity, nowhere in the reference is there any teaching of “first and second active sections having dimensions such that a difference between optical frequencies of any two resonant modes of said first resonant cavity is never equal to a difference between optical frequencies of any two selectively reflected frequencies of said reflector,” as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added). Without the reflector external to the first resonant cavity, Schimpe is effectively precluded from teaching the claimed “two selectively reflected frequencies of said reflector,” and the claimed relationship between the two selectively reflected frequencies and the optical frequencies of any two resonant modes of said first resonant cavity, as recited in claim 1.

Since the Examiner has not shown how the missing features of claim 1 are inherently disclosed, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Schimpe and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2-11, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the same arguments submitted for claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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